

involved in bettering St. Helena through her volunteer work. Bonnie is a member of the St. Helena Rotary club, the Kiwanis club and she sits on the REMIF Board of Directors.

Mr. Speaker, as impressive as Mrs. Long's professional contributions and service to St. Helena are, she would be the first to tell you that her real success has been as a dedicated wife, a loving mother and an adoring grandmother. Whether traveling with her husband John, giving advice to her daughter Samantha or playing with her grandson Zachary, Bonnie has been a shining example of how to keep your priorities straight. For Bonnie, family is the true joy of life.

Mr. Speaker, because of the many contributions she has made to the town of St. Helena and for her excellence and dedication, it is proper for us to honor Bonnie Jean Long today as she retires from the office city manager.

#### HONORING HENRY COVELLO

#### HON. JAMES P. McGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 2003

Mr. McGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Henry Covello, a veteran of World War II and Korea.

Mr. Covello served our country in World War II as a young man. His honor and bravery earned him a Purple Heart for his service in the war. His lifelong dedication to the United States Army is reflected by the prestige of the Purple Heart, among the highest honors an American citizen can receive. Following his service in World War II, Mr. Covello went off to serve in Korea where he earned his second Purple Heart. I am proud to tell my colleagues that this weekend Mr. Covello will posthumously receive his third Purple Heart.

Mr. Covello served in the United States Army with the 82nd Airborne Division, 504th Parachute Regiment, the 5th Airborne Ranger Co., 25th Division, and D Company, 19 Regiment, 24th Division. He served for nearly 25 years in the Army before permanently retiring to Worcester, Massachusetts.

Mr. Covello is an example for all Americans. Devoting himself to our armed forces, Mr. Covello's awards are the sign of a grateful nation. His service in the fight against tyranny and oppression should not be forgotten.

Mr. Speaker, I extend my sincere thanks to Mr. Covello, and to all of our veterans, for bravely fighting to protect our security and liberty. I am confident that my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives will join me in thanking Mr. Covello for his service.

#### INTRODUCTION OF H.R. 1906, THE SERVICEMEMBERS' TRANSITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM AND SERVICES ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 2003

#### HON. LANE EVANS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 2003

Mr. EVANS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Servicemembers' Transition As-

sistance Program and Services Enhancement Act of 2003. This legislation would improve our servicemembers' often challenging transition process from active-duty military service back into civilian life. In the Homeless Veterans Comprehensive Assistance Act of 2001 (Public Law 107-95), Congress made a commitment to end chronic homelessness among veterans within this decade. This legislation is a strong step forward to honoring that commitment.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to say that this bill is a proactive measure; it aims to educate our separating servicemembers about the risk factors associated with homelessness, as well as provide them with the tools they need to obtain quality long-term employment.

Unemployment and continual underemployment can lead to poverty, which is the common denominator and root cause of homelessness. This measure would ensure that all servicemembers have the opportunity to participate and take advantage of important Transition Assistance Program (TAP) services prior to leaving military service.

TAP is jointly administered by the Departments of Defense, Labor, and Veterans Affairs. These services generally include, employment counseling, career assistance, and veterans' benefits guidance for active-duty servicemembers returning to civilian life. Currently, only the Marine Corps requires mandatory TAP attendance for all of its separating or retiring servicemembers. The Marine Corps again leads the way!

Mr. Speaker, every veteran and servicemember I have spoken with concerning TAP has said that attending a transition workshop was a positive experience, and that the services truly helped them in their civilian job search. Additionally, as we all know, the military is comprised of a substantial number of married servicemembers. This measure acknowledges the special people that make-up our military community, and encourages full spousal participation in TAP services.

Further, this important legislation would also require that TAP workshops include homelessness risk awareness assessments. As servicemembers leave military life to become civilians, they must adjust to new responsibilities and in certain ways a new lifestyle. This transition can be particularly challenging to veterans who are at greater risk of becoming homeless.

According to recent studies, veterans: comprise 23 percent of the overall homeless population and 33 percent of the homeless male population; are twice as likely to become homeless as non-veterans; female veterans are approximately four times as likely to become homeless as their non-veteran counterparts; 40 percent of homeless veterans reported mental health problems; 49 percent reported alcohol abuse; 31 percent reported drug use; 52 percent reported chronic medical conditions.

Lastly, Mr. Speaker, I want to thank Linda Boone and the entire staff of the National Coalition for Homeless Veterans. I very much appreciate their advocacy on behalf of homeless veterans.

I encourage all my colleagues to support this proactive legislation.

HONORING DR. ARTHUR O. HAZARABEDIAN

#### HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 2003

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. Arthur O. Hazarabedian posthumously for his vast contributions to his community and to the Armenian culture. His passing on March 31st of this year was a tragic loss to all who knew him.

Arthur graduated from U.C. Berkeley with a Bachelor of Science in Agriculture Economics in 1953. He then received a Degree in Veterinary Medicine in 1959 from U.C. Davis. Dr. Hazarabedian's compassion for the animal community was shown in his ownership of Harmar Veterinary Services in the East Bay of San Francisco. Most of his career as a veterinarian was dedicated to aiding pets, and he offered his services to four veterinary hospitals over the span of 40 years. Dr. Hazarabedian's love for helping other creatures is evident in his being a founding member of many veterinary organizations, including the American Veterinary Medical Association and their Business Management Committee. He also served as a representative of the California Board of Equalization and was a Charter member of the California Academy of Veterinary Medicine.

Dr. Hazarabedian has made a significant impact on many lives in the Armenian community. One of Dr. Hazarabedian's greatest accomplishments was the founding of the Armenian Technology Group, Inc. He, and the other ATG co-founders, formed the organization to assist Armenia in its transition from a subject state of the Soviet Union to a free and independent nation. Under Dr. Hazarabedian's leadership, the goal of ATG has been the advancement of democracy in Armenia through the development of a modern agricultural base in a free-market economy. ATG has sought to introduce modern farming practices and technologies to Armenian farmers and government representatives through programs designed to promote independent action and knowledge sharing.

In 1990, he received the Distinguished Alumni Achievement Award from the Faculty at the University of California, Davis, School of Veterinary Medicine, which is the highest award for contributions, public service and excellence in the veterinary profession. Three weeks before he passed away, on March 8, Dr. Hazarabedian received the Man-of-the-Year award from the Armenian National Committee of America—Bay Area Chapter, at a ceremony held in San Francisco, CA for his outstanding service to Armenia and Armenian-American causes.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. Arthur O. Hazarabedian for his exceptional services to the protection of the humanitarian cause. I invite my colleagues to join me in commending Arthur for an exceptional career and for his everlasting contributions.